WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for trading an instrument, comprising the steps of:

providing a request from a customer to a plurality of users via a communication network, the request including request data concerning the instrument;

receiving at least one response to the request from the plurality of users, the at least one response including price data;

providing the at least one response to the customer via the communication network;

determining a best price response to the request as a function of the at least one response;

providing a first indication to the user who provided the best price response; and

providing a second indication to the users who did not provide the best price response, the first and second indications being different from one another.

2.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

eliminating a particular response of the at least one response if the particular response is not the best price response.

3.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the request data include at least one of an identifier of the instrument, pricing information of the instrument, and quantity information for the instrument.

4.   The method according to claim 3, wherein the request data further include at least one predetermined condition.

5.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the

10

steps of:

initiating a settlement procedure when the user accepts a response.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

eliminating the request by the customer when the customer indicates the request is no longer valid.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

amending the request at the direction of the customer; and

providing the amended request to the plurality of users via the communication network.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first and second indications are provided by a predetermined signal selected from the group consisting of one or more of visual indications and sound indications.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one of pricing data, risk management data, and analysis data for the instrument to the plurality of users.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the instrument is selected from the group consisting of a stock, a bond, a treasury bill, and a derivative.

11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

initiating a private communication between the customer and one of the plurality of users selected by the customer.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the private communication includes at least one of a fax, an e-mail, and a real-time chat channel.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the request includes at least one subrequest.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the communication network includes at least one of an Internet, a dedicated network, a telephone network, and a wireless network.

15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
     generating at least one predetermined group of the plurality of users.

16. A system for trading an instrument, comprising;
     a communication network;
     a first computer for transmitting a request from a customer via the communication network, the request including request data; and
     at least one second computer for receiving the request via the communication network, the at least one second computer transmitting at least one response to the request from at least one user to the first computer via the communication network,
     wherein the first computer determines a best price response to the request as a function of the at least one response, the first computer transmitting a first indication to the user who provided the best price response, the first computer transmitting a second indication to the users who did not provide the best price response, the first and second indications being different from one another.

17. A system for trading an instrument, comprising;

12

a first computer;

a second computer for transmitting a request from a customer to the first computer, the request including request data; and

at least one third computer for receiving the request via the first computer, the at least one third computer transmitting to the first computer at least one response to the request from at least one user,

wherein the first computer determines a best price reponse to the request as a function of the at least one response, the first computer transmitting a first indication to the user who provided the best price response, the first computer transmitting a second indication to the users who did not provide the best price response, the first and second indications being different from one another.

18.   A computer-readable storage medium storing a set of instructions, the set of instructions capable of being executed by a processor to provide for trading of an instrument, the set of instructions performing the steps of:

providing a request from a customer to a plurality of users via a communication network, the request including request data concerning the instrument;

receiving at least one response to the request from the plurality of users, the at least one response including price data;

providing the at least one response to the customer via the communication network;

determining a best price response to the request as a function of the at least one response;

providing a first indication to the user who provided the best price response; and

providing a second indication to the users who did not provide the best price response, the first and second indications being different from one another.

13